

SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR MULTI-TIER MULTI-CASTING OVER THE INTERNET

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

System and method adapted to multi-cast over the Internet using multiple tiers of servers. Preferably, the content server transmits content to servers in the next lower tier, which may include one or more client servers, using multi-cast, but may use uni-cast. Preferably, each server in all intermediate tiers transmits content to the servers in the next lower tier, which may include one or more client servers, using multi-cast, but may use uni-cast. Each client server transmits to its clients using multi-cast. The quality of a live cast received by each client server may be improved using the more efficient UDP/IP for downloading the bulk of the content and compensating for the occasional lost segments of data using the more reliable TCP/IP.